



REGARDLESS OF OPPOSITION OUR MISSION REMAINS UNALTERABLE



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North Korea! Perhaps no country on earth right now is at a more critical juncture in its history: determining whether its future is one of increased engagement with the world resulting in greater peace and prosperity for its people or increased isolation and potential conflict. The stakes could not be higher. As I write, U.S. President Donald Trump has agreed to meet with Kim Jong-un, the Supreme Leader of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea or DPRK. Our hopes and prayers are that this meeting will result in a breakthrough in peaceful relations between the DPRK, the U.S., South Korea and the rest of the world.

But whatever the outcome of these meetings may be, the mission of Jesus followers worldwide remains unchanged and unalterable. For almost 2,000 years the mission that Jesus gave us has been to go to every people, make disciples, baptize and teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded. (Matt. 28:18–20) Throughout Christian history this disciple-making mission has often faced brutal opposition from various religious and political forms of government. The faithful

followers of Jesus have often paid a very high price to see the gospel of the kingdom advance.

Jesus, Peter, the Apostle Paul and the early Church lived under one of the most brutal regimes in world history—the Roman Empire. How did Jesus teach his followers to respond to governments like the Romans where the gospel is not welcome? Was it to resist or overthrow them? Absolutely not; just the opposite. Jesus said, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s. (Mark 12:17) Jesus also said to Pontius Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders.” (John 18:38) Many Jews wanted Jesus to fulfill their desire to throw off Roman oppression, but Jesus had a different mission and we are to carry on that mission today. What was the model of ministry that Jesus used?

Luke 9:1–2 provides one answer: “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases and He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

Jesus told His disciples to heal the sick and proclaim the kingdom of God—make disciples. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus says, “You are the light of the world.” Jesus takes it a step further in verse 16 of this same chapter when He says, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

This is exactly what dozens of faithful Jesus followers have been doing in North Korea for more than two decades. They have been healing the sick—providing care and hope to people trapped in desperate situations. They have been allowing the light of God’s love to shine in North Korea. Proclamation of the gospel is not permitted in North Korea. So these faithful servants of God are doing what they can to demonstrate the love of God by sacrificially serving the North Korean people.

Our lead article, starting on page 8, is an amazing account of the tremendous efforts that have been made to ease the suffering of the North Korean people. Faithful workers have treated those with tuberculosis and hepatitis, provided

clean water and much more. They have let their light shine in the darkness and brought glory to God. It is a silent but powerful witness that the Holy Spirit can use to change hearts and minds—and perhaps even the destiny of an entire people.

These faithful servants of the North Korean people are following in the honored footsteps of previous generations of mission workers who followed the example of Jesus in healing the sick and proclaiming the kingdom. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries faithful Jesus followers intuitively employed the model of Jesus in caring for those in need regardless of whether they would ever come to faith in Jesus or not. In many parts of the world these Christian workers started the first hospitals, schools and universities. Was this a distraction from sharing the gospel or did it actually empower the message of the gospel? I think the results speak for themselves as we read of growing movements to Christ throughout Africa and Asia where meeting felt needs demonstrates the power of God's love and makes the gospel real for people—more than just mere words.

Regardless of the politics or leadership of any nation, our global mission is clear. Our master and king, Jesus, gave us a clear command and a clear example to follow. Now it is up to each of us to decide what part we will play.

JOIN US IN CASTING VISION FOR KINGDOM MOVEMENTS IN EVERY PEOPLE

Here at *Mission Frontiers* we continue in our quest to expand the impact and influence of this publication. The reason we do this is because we exist to help accomplish

God's highest purpose—to foster movements of discipleship and church planting in all peoples so that God would receive the glory and worship He deserves. Our job here at *MF* is to mobilize the global church with this vision. But we can only succeed in this mission if we can gain the support and partnership of people like you. Will you help us? There are several ways that you can help.

Give Financially: While we appreciate the sacrificial donations of those who have contributed over the last two months, donor income has not even covered the cost of printing, not to mention mailing, graphics work or new translations. If you have thought about giving, now would be a great time to do so.

Pray: Pray that God would supernaturally open doors of opportunity for *MF* to spread the vision of fostering kingdom movements in all peoples. Pray that God would provide the manpower to enable us to walk through these open doors. And yes, also pray that the financial resources would be available to expand the reach and influence of *MF*.

Share: We want the information and vision contained in *MF* to be spread far and wide, but we need your help to do this. Download the pdf version of any article or issue of *MF* and share them with your friends. Visit www.missionfrontiers.org. Print off as many copies of these pdfs as you like. We give free permission for people to reprint material from *MF* as long as they let people know it came from us. One mission agency contacted us recently and asked permission to translate one of our website postings into German. Fantastic! Keep it up. Tell your friends about our website. Order extra copies for your friends,

pastor, conferences or your missions committee. If you are a missions pastor or you teach missions, order copies for your students. We will send them to you for a nominal handling fee plus the cost of shipping. Supplies are limited but we will send what we have. Join us as we cast vision through *Mission Frontiers*. To God be the glory! 

SOMETHING NEW ON THE COVER

Mission Frontiers exists to give you the tools and information you need to live on mission with God and to help foster kingdom movements to Christ within every people on Earth. To help do this we have added a new feature to our cover—a running count of the progress we are making in fostering kingdom movements. With each new issue of *Mission Frontiers* you will be able to track the progress toward the goal of kingdom movements in every people. Just one year ago there were just 150 known kingdom movements. Now there are **652**. How many known kingdom movements will there be when our next issue comes out? We will all have to wait to see what the next cover of *MF* reveals.



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